

If my building is exempt from the Florida Building Code am I exempt from other permitting requirements?

No. Qualification of the Florida Building Code Exemption does not exempt you from other permitting requirements including, but not limited to:

- Zoning
- Impact Fees
- Health Department
- Environmental
- Stormwater

How do I apply for the exemption?

The Sumter County Division of Planning & Development has an application that must be submitted and approved to confirm that the building does meet the criteria for the exemption to the Florida Building Code. This application asks for the following information:

- Where is the location of property (address and legal description)?
- How is the building going to be used?
- Does the property have or applied for the agricultural exemption from the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office?
- Are there any homes or other buildings within 150 feet of the farm building?

- Two (2) copies of a site sketch showing the property boundaries, the location of the proposed farm building, and all buildings within 150 feet of the proposed farm building.

Submit the signed and notarized application to the Sumter County Division of Planning & Development with a \$25.00 application processing fee.

If the application meets the criteria for the exemption, then the application will be signed by Zoning and the Building Official. A green sign will be issued to place at the site during construction to let others know that the building is exempt.

If I have questions who do I contact?

Questions regarding the exemption criteria can be answered by the Sumter County Division of Planning & Development at (352) 793-0270.

References:

Section 553.73(8), Florida Statutes
Section 823.14(3)(a), Florida Statutes
Section XXX, Florida Statutes

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners
Division of Planning & Development

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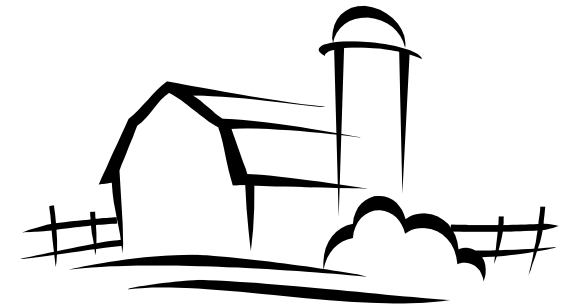
Phone (352) 793-0270

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Sumter County
Board of County Commissioners
Division of Planning & Development

Agricultural Farm Building Exemption from Florida Building Code Frequently Asked Questions



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Why are barns and other farm buildings exempt from the Florida Building Code?

Barns and other farm buildings are critical to the successful operation of a farm. Recognizing this fact, the State of Florida has exempted barns and other agricultural farm building from the requirements of the Florida Building Code, building plan review, and building permitting and inspections. However, to qualify for the exemption the building must meet the following criteria:

1. The building is not used as a residence (permanent or temporary);
2. The building is used in the operation of a farm as defined by Florida Statutes; and
3. The building is located on property that is classified as agricultural and qualifies for the agricultural property tax exemption by the Property Appraiser's Office.

The purpose of these three criteria is to assure that the barn, or other farm building, is truly used as part of a farm operation and not for personal use.

What types of buildings are eligible for the exemption?

Buildings that are used in the operation of a farm are exempt. These include, but are not limited to:

- Barns
- Greenhouses
- Storage buildings for farm equipment, animal supplies or feed
- Storage buildings for equipment used to implement farming and/or agricultural activities
- Storage buildings for crops grown and raised on site

Can I store my personal vehicles, tractors, or equipment in the building?

No. The building can only be used for the operation of a farm that produces farm products for sale.

Can I shelter my horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, etc. for my personal use and enjoyment in the building?

No. The building can only be used for the sheltering and care of animals that are part of the farm operation that produces farm products for sale.

Can I use the building as a personal workshop or a workshop for non-farm related activities?

No. The only activities that can take place in the building are those that are directly related to the operation of the farm that produces farm products for sale.

What if I want to change the use of the building from the farm operation to another non-farm related use?

If the building is no longer used as part of the farm operation that produces farm products for sale, then the building is subject to all requirements of the Florida Building Code, building plan review, and building permitting and inspections.

How do I obtain the agricultural designation and exemption from the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office?

The Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office is responsible for designating properties as agricultural for purposes of the agricultural property tax exemption. Contact the Sumter County Property Appraiser's Office at (352) 793-0210 for information regarding the agricultural property tax exemption.